

# A FLIGHT that LIVES

*Pioneers Gather in Paris to Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the London-Manchester Contest Between Paulhan and Grahame-White*



**AT THE BANQUET :** Among those at the top table are M. Louis Breguet (fourth from right), Col. O'Gorman (sixth), M. Tissandier, Secretary-General of the F.A.I. (eighth), Louis Paulhan (tenth) and Gen. Denain (extreme left). In the foreground, seated at the "1910 pilots' " table, are M. Henry Farman (left), with Mr. Claude Grahame-White on his right ; then come M. Henri Jullerot and, facing the camera, is Lt. Col. Moore-Brabazon.

THE story of the struggle for the honour of making the first London-Manchester flight in twenty-four hours, and thereby winning *The Daily Mail* £10,000 prize, is one that will always be outstanding in the annals of aviation; even to-day twenty-five years later, many remember almost every detail of the epic struggle between M. Louis Paulhan and Mr. Claude Grahame-White on their Henry Farman biplanes; there was, indeed, drama in the air on the night of April 27, 1910, when Paulhan, thinking he had plenty of time in hand, slept peacefully in an hotel at Lichfield oblivious to the fact that his rival, having triumphed over a series of cruel setbacks, was fighting his way through wind, rain and darkness only thirty-four miles distant.

Hastily awakened, the Frenchman scrambled into his seat and took off; and only ten miles away, at the same moment, the Englishman once more fell foul of Fortune, being finally and literally forced to earth by the strength of the wind, while the other continued to the finish.

It was to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of this great event that the Aero Club of France, in Paris last Thursday, gave a banquet in honour of Paulhan. The affair was organised in conjunction with the *Vieilles Tiges* ("Old Timers."

The French Air Minister, General Denain, presided, and, in addition to Louis Paulhan, the guest of honour, those at the top table included Prince George Bibesco, President of the F.A.I.; Prince Berthold of Sweden; MM. Andre Wateau, President

of the Aero Club of France; Laurent-Eynac, former Under Secretary of State for Aviation and now Minister of Public Works and President of the Federation Aeronautique de France; Leon Bathiat, President of the *Vieilles Tiges*; Georges Dorman, former Minister of Pensions; and Generals Pujo (chief of Air Force) and de Vergniet and Gerard.

In addition to Mr. Claude Grahame-White, British aviation was represented by Colonel Mervyn O'Gorman, Vice-President of the Royal Aero Club and of the F.A.I.; Comdr. H. E. Perrin, Secretary of the R.Ae.C.; Lieut. Col. Moore-Brabazon, holder of British pilot's licence No. 1; Wing Comdr. Field, British Air Attache in Paris; and Captain K. Bartlett.

Pilots and constructors of the pre-War era were seated together at a long table; they included MM. Henry Farman, Voisin, Breguet, Caudron, Bleriot and Anzani.

M. Andre Wateau, welcoming the guests, said that the London-Manchester flight might be looked on as a milestone from which the progress not only of private aviation but also of military aviation might be said to date. M. Bathiat entertained the company with anecdotes of the early days, and concluded by giving an account of the London-Manchester flight.

M. Henri Kapferer (a balloonist of the 1910 era), Prince George Bibesco and General Denain then spoke briefly, relating further anecdotes of that period, and M. Paulhan closed the speech-making with a few well-chosen observations concerning the great progress effected in aeronautics since 1910. He also paid an especial tribute to Mr. Grahame-White's sportsmanship.

## Forthcoming Events

- Jan. 28. R.Ae.S. Students' Section Discussion: "Sailplanes," 7 p.m., R.Ae.S. Library, 7, Albemarle Street, London, W.1.
- Jan. 30 and 31. Aerodrome Owners' Association: Annual Conference and Aerodrome Equipment Exhibition, British Industries House, Marble Arch, London.
- Feb. 3. R.Ae.S. Lecture: "Airscrew Development" by Dr. H. C. Watts, Institution of Electrical Engineers, 6.30 p.m.
- Feb. 12. Yorkshire Aviation Services Country Club: Dinner and Dance, 8 p.m., Grand Hotel, Harrogate.
- Feb. 13. R.Ae.S. Students' Section Lecture: "Light Aeroplane Design and Construction," by Dr. N. A. de Bruyne, 7 p.m., R.Ae.S. Library, 7, Albemarle Street, London, W.1.

- Feb. 17. R.Ae.S. Lecture: "The Boundary Layer," by Prof. L. Bairstow, Institution of Electrical Engineers, 6.30 p.m.
- Feb. 20. R.Ae.S. (Coventry Section) Lecture: "Variable-pitch Airscrews," by Mr. T. E. Beacham, 8 p.m., Armstrong Siddeley Canteen.
- Feb. 21. Croydon Airport Staff Dinner and Ball, Greyhound Theatre, Croydon, 7.45 p.m.
- Feb. 21. D. H. Aeronautical Technical School: Annual Dance, Hyde Park Hotel, London, 9 p.m.
- Feb. 25. R.Ae.S. Students' Section Lecture: "Mechanical Testing of Structures and Components," by W. Tye, 7 p.m., R.Ae.S. Library, 7, Albemarle Street, London, W.1.
- Feb. 28. Bristol and Wessex Aeroplane Club: Annual Aviation Ball.